

Wildlife Restoration/Hunter Education Advisory Team



Advisory 2020-001: Conservation Education through Project Wild

May 12, 2020

Can funds from Traditional Wildlife Restoration, either hunter education program, or for those activities under “hunter recruitment or recreational shooter recruitment” be used to provide conservation education through Project Wild?

a. Discussion - Traditional Wildlife Restoration/Basic Hunter Education/Enhanced Hunter Education:

To determine the eligibility for funds under Traditional Wildlife Restoration, Basic Hunter Education, and Enhanced Hunter Education we refer to 50 CFR 80.50(a), (b), and (c). A few members on the Team have worked with Project Wild and are familiar with the current curriculum. According to these Team members and the Project Wild website, the primary purpose of Project Wild is to “*help students learn how to think, not what to think, about wildlife and the environment.*” It is an educational program geared towards thinking about wildlife in general terms.

Advisory: Under its current structure and curriculum, Project Wild is not eligible to be funded under the Traditional Wildlife Restoration and hunter education programs as eligible activities listed at 50 CFR 80.50(a), (b), and (c).

b. Discussion – Activities associated with Hunter Recruitment and Recreational Shooter Recruitment:

There is not a hunting or hunter education component in the current Project Wild curriculum, so it is hard to associate it with hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment. In the definition of *hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment*, it allows as an activity “promoting conservation and the responsible use of wildlife resources,” but ONLY as it is directly related to hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment. Per the WSFR Solicitor, any of the activities listed at 16 U.S.C. 669a(3)(A) – (D) are only eligible to the extent that they support *hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment*.

Advisory: It is possible that an educational program, such as Project Wild, could have components that may be eligible under *hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment* **if** a State demonstrates that the activity directly supports hunter recruitment as the primary purpose of the grant. Those on the Team familiar with Project Wild stated that from their experience, recruitment didn’t appear to be the primary focus, but WSFR should assess proposals on a case-by-case basis to determine if the State has associated the costs with a recruitment purpose and properly allocated costs to only those eligible components. Wildlife Restoration funds have been awarded in the Multistate grant program for modifying Project Wild curriculum activities. If the activities within the curriculum are modified in the future to articulate accomplishments of the Wildlife Restoration grant programs, or address hunter or target shooter recruitment, then Project Wild may be eligible for future funding within appropriate Wildlife Restoration grants.